(d) if not, what is Government's assessment in this regard alongwith the arrangement considered by it for the said investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) to (d)The Ministry of Food Processing Industries got a study conducted by the National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER) regarding the performance and prospects of food processing industries in India. The NCAER Report projected an investment of Rs. 92,208 crores in different food processing industries at a GDP growth rate of 8% during the Tenth Five Year Plan. The Ministry's policy is to create an enabling environment to leverage such investments from both domestic and foreign investors. An outlay of Rs. 650 crores has been earmarked for the Plan Schemes of the Ministry for the Tenth Five Year Plan.

Wastage of fruits and vegetables

379. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) how much fruits and vegetables have wasted in the country due to non-availability of processing facilities during the last three years, State-wise and commodity-wise;

(b) what is the main cause for this wastage of food commodities; and

(c) what are the plans of Government for optimum utilization of fruits and vegetables?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) Government of India constituted a Working Group on Post Harvest Management, Marketing and Exports in 1995,This Group estimated that post harvest losses in different crops range from 8% to 37%.These losses occur during different stages after harvest. The Indian Institute of Horticultural Research has assessed that losses occur at different stages like harvesting, transport, storage, processing & packing and marketing etc.

Details of losses in various stages, State and commodity-wise, are not available.

(c) In addition to better post harvest handling and cold storage, to prevent wastage, development of food processing industries is the key to better utilization of fruits and vegetables. Assistance for various post harvest operations like settng up pack house, value added centre, cold storage, infrastructure like food park, cold chain etc., setting up of food processing industries, their technology upgradation, modernization etc. is available under the Plan Schemes of the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Food Processing Industries. Besides, agencies like NHB, APEDA, NCDC also provide assistance under their respective schemes.

Fake institutions

†380. SHRIMATI PREMACARIAPPA:

SHRI MOTILALVORA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "Moti Rakam Lekar Degree De Rahe Hain Farzi Sansthan" published in the Rashtriya Sahara, dated the 7th December, 2002;

(b) the steps taken by Government to identify such fake institutes;

(c) whether Government have been successful in apprehending the persons running these institutes; and

(d) if not, the arrangements made by Government to arrest such persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

National Commission for Children

381. SHRI R.R GOENKA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up National Commission for Children on the lines of the National Human Rights Commission;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.